

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1277

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 7634

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OVIP (PRES. FORD), IT  
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO ROME: ITALIAN ACTIVITIES PERTAIN-  
ING TO U.S. BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

REF: ROME 7627

1. FURTHER TO REFTEL, ITALIAN INTEREST IN SHARING US BICENTENNIAL  
SEEN IN THEIR PLANNED PARTICIPATION VARIOUS EVENTS IN THE US,  
INCLUDING:

A. MILAN'S LA SCALA OPERA COMPANY IS SCHEDULED TO PLAY TEN  
PERFORMANCES AT KENNEDY CENTER IN WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 1976-  
A PARTICULARLY COSTLY UNDERTAKING;

B. A LARGE EXHIBIT ON THE ARCHITECTURE OF PALLADIO IS BEING  
PLANNED, PROBABLY FOR CHARLOTTESVILLE, WASHINGTON AND  
PHILADELPHIA, ABOUT APRIL 1976;

C. THE GOI HAS INDICATED THEY WILL SEND THE FAMED DE MEDICI  
VENUS SCULPTURE IN FLORENCE, FOR THE "EYE OF JEFFERSON"  
EXHIBIT AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY, WASHINGTON.

D. ITALIANS EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN SEVERAL LOWER-LEVEL  
EVENTS IN US SUCH AS FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL ON WASHINGTON MALL  
SPONSORED BY SMITHSONIAN IN SUMMERS 1975 AND 1976, A  
CONFERENCE OF WORLD FIGURES IN AMERICAN STUDIES SET FOR  
WASHINGTON JUNE 1976, ETC.

MUCH OF THE FOREGOING IS BEING UNDERTAKEN WITH THE ACTIVE ENCOURAGE-  
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MENT -- AND IN SOME CASES FINANCIAL SUPPORT -- OF THE ITALIAN

GOVERNMENT.

2. AS FOR EVENTS IN ITALY COMMEMORATING BICENTENNIAL, VARIOUS INDIVIDUALS AND INSTITUTIONS ARE NOW FORMING PLANS FOR 1976 EVENTS, SUCH AS CONFERENCES ON US HISTORY (GENOA) AND FOREIGN POLICY (PADUA), CIVIC "AMERICA" WEEKS, AND AN EXHIBIT OF IMPORTANT US WORKS OF ART TO TOUR SEVERAL ITALIAN CITIES. EMBASSY IS ENCOURAGING AND COORDINATING.VOLPE

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